

## IN THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An asset management system for managing ~~ana~~ network asset communicably connectable to a computer network, said asset management system comprising:

storage means for storing management information of ~~an~~ the network asset communicably connectable to the computer network, including network asset identifying information identifying the network asset and computer network node identifying information of the network asset identifying a connection node of a the network asset on the computer network to which the network asset is communicably connected;

determining means for determining, ~~based on information included in the information circulating over the computer network, a~~ sender and destination network address of the information circulating over the computer network and for determining whether said information circulating over the computer network is information sent from the network asset being managed or information addressed to the network asset being managed;

gathering means for gathering network asset management information, including network asset identifying information identifying ~~an~~ the network asset being managed and computer network node identifying information ~~identifying a connection node to which~~ of the network asset ~~is connected, from~~ based upon the information circulating over the computer network, when it is determined by said determining means that the information circulating over the computer network is information sent from the network asset being managed or information addressed to ~~the asset;~~ the network asset being managed; and

updating means for comparing the gathered network asset management information with the stored network asset management information ~~storage contents of the storage means~~ and

when the gathered network asset management information and the ~~storage contents~~stored network asset management information are not the same, updating the ~~storage contents of the storage means by~~stored network asset management information with the gathered network asset management information.

2. (ORIGINAL) An asset management system according to claim 1, wherein said management information includes information on a software asset executed by the asset.

3. (ORIGINAL) An asset management system according to claim 1, wherein said management information includes information on a hardware asset constituting the asset.

4. (ORIGINAL) An asset management system according to claim 2, wherein said management information includes information on a hardware asset constituting the asset.

5. (WITHDRAWN) An asset management system according to claim 1, wherein said management information includes information on classification as to whether the asset is a leased asset or not and, if it is, information on a lease expiration date of the asset, further comprising:

means for comparing a current date and the lease expiration date of the asset, and  
means for providing a notification that the lease has expired when it is detected that the lease has expired as a result of the comparison by the comparing means.

6. (WITHDRAWN) An asset management system according to claim 2, wherein said management information includes information on classification as to whether the asset is a leased asset or not and information on a lease expiration date of the asset, further comprising:

means for comparing a current date and the lease expiration date of the asset, and  
means for providing a notification that the lease has expired when it is detected that the lease has expired as a result of the comparison by the comparing means.

7. (WITHDRAWN) An asset management system according to claim 3, wherein said management information includes information on classification as to whether the asset is a leased asset or not and if it is, information on a lease expiration date of the asset, further

comprising:

means for comparing a current date and the lease expiration date of the asset, and

means for providing a notification that the lease has expired when it is detected that the lease has expired as a result of the comparison by the comparing means.

8. (WITHDRAWN) An asset management system according to claim 4, wherein said management information includes information on classification as to whether the asset is a leased asset or not and information on a lease expiration date of the asset, further comprising:

means for comparing a current date and the lease expiration date of the asset, and

means for providing a notification that the lease has expired when it is detected that the lease has expired as a result of the comparison by the comparing means.

9. (WITHDRAWN) An asset management system according to claim 1, wherein said management information includes information on an amount of stock, a lower limit of amount of stock and an amount of replenishment at one time of a consumable item consumed by the asset, said gathering means is provided with means for gathering information on the asset being out of a consumable item, and said updating means is provided with: means for, when it is detected that the asset is out of a consumable item, determining whether the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit after replenishment of the consumable item or not; and means for providing a notification that the consumable item is short of stock when the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit.

10. (WITHDRAWN) An asset management system according to claim 2, wherein said management information includes information on an amount of stock, a lower limit of amount of stock and an amount of replenishment at one time of a consumable item consumed by the asset, said gathering means is provided with means for gathering information on the asset being out of a consumable item, and said updating means is provided with: means for, when it is detected that the asset is out of a consumable item, determining whether the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit after replenishment of the consumable item or not; and means for providing a notification that the consumable item is short of stock when the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit.

11. (WITHDRAWN) An asset management system according to claim 3, wherein said management information includes information on an amount of stock, a lower limit of amount of stock and an amount of replenishment at one time of a consumable item consumed by the asset, said gathering means is provided with means for gathering information on the asset being out of a consumable item, and said updating means is provided with: means for, when it is detected that the asset is out of a consumable item, determining whether the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit after replenishment of the consumable item or not; and means for providing a notification that the consumable item is short of stock when the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit.

12. (WITHDRAWN) An asset management system according to claim 4, wherein said management information includes information on an amount of stock, a lower limit of amount of stock and an amount of replenishment at one time of a consumable item consumed by the asset, said gathering means is provided with means for gathering information on the asset being out of a consumable item, and said updating means is provided with: means for, when it is detected that the asset is out of a consumable item, determining whether the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit after replenishment of the consumable item or not; and means for providing a notification that the consumable item is short of stock when the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit.

13. (WITHDRAWN) An asset management system according to claim 5, wherein said management information includes information on an amount of stock, a lower limit of amount of stock and an amount of replenishment at one time of a consumable item consumed by the asset, said gathering means is provided with means for gathering information on the asset being out of a consumable item, and said updating means is provided with: means for, when it is detected that the asset is out of a consumable item, determining whether the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit after replenishment of the consumable item or not; and means for providing a notification that the consumable item is short of stock when the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit.

14. (WITHDRAWN) An asset management system according to claim 6, wherein said management information includes information on an amount of stock, a lower limit of amount of

stock and an amount of replenishment at one time of a consumable item consumed by the asset, said gathering means is provided with means for gathering information on the asset being out of a consumable item, and said updating means is provided with: means for, when it is detected that the asset is out of a consumable item, determining whether the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit after replenishment of the consumable item or not; and means for providing a notification that the consumable item is short of stock when the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit.

15. (WITHDRAWN) An asset management system according to claim 7, wherein said management information includes information on an amount of stock, a lower limit of amount of stock and an amount of replenishment at one time of a consumable item consumed by the asset, said gathering means is provided with means for gathering information on the asset being out of a consumable item, and said updating means is provided with: means for, when it is detected that the asset is out of a consumable item, determining whether the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit after replenishment of the consumable item or not; and means for providing a notification that the consumable item is short of stock when the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit.

16. (WITHDRAWN) An asset management system according to claim 8, wherein said management information includes information on an amount of stock, a lower limit of amount of stock and an amount of replenishment at one time of a consumable item consumed by the asset, said gathering means is provided with means for gathering information on the asset being out of a consumable item, and said updating means is provided with: means for, when it is detected that the asset is out of a consumable item, determining whether the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit after replenishment of the consumable item or not; and means for providing a notification that the consumable item is short of stock when the amount of stock becomes less than the lower limit.

17. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An asset management system for managing ~~an~~ network asset communicably connectable to a computer network, said asset management system comprising:

a storage medium storing management information of ~~an~~ the network asset

communicably connectable to the computer network, including network asset information identifying the network asset and computer network node identifying information of the network asset to identify the network asset on identifying a connection node of a computer network to which the network asset is communicably connected;

a controller in communication with ~~connected to~~ said storage medium, and performing processes comprising:

(i) ~~determining, based on information included in the information circulating over the computer network,~~ a sender and destination network address of the information circulating over the computer network and ~~for determining whether said information circulating over the computer network is information sent from the network asset being managed or information addressed to the network asset being managed;~~

(ii) ~~gathering the network asset management information, including network asset identifying information identifying an the network asset being managed and computer network node identifying information identifying a connection node to which the asset is connected of the network asset, from~~ based upon the information circulating over the computer network, when it is determined by said determining ~~means that the information circulating over the computer network is information sent from the network asset being managed or information addressed to the asset, and~~ network asset being manage; and

(iii) comparing the gathered network asset management information with ~~a storage contents of the storage medium~~ the stored network asset management information and when the gathered network asset management information and the storage contents stored network asset management information are not the same, updating the ~~storage contents of the storage medium by~~ stored network asset management information with the gathered network asset management information.

18. (CURRENT AMENDED) An asset management system in which clients of network sections and a server are in communication by a computer network, the system comprising:

~~in which an asset management client of in each network section gathers to gather network asset management information of network assets communicably connectable to and belonging to each corresponding network section a computer network which assets belong to each section and~~

an asset management server in communication with each asset management client by the computer network to analyze~~analyzes~~ the network asset management information gathered by ~~the~~each asset management client of each network section and to thereby manage network assets of all the network sections, wherein:

said asset management server comprises a storage medium for storing a master file ~~where registering network asset~~ management information of ~~an asset is registered~~the network assets, said network asset management information including network section identifying information identifying each network section, network asset identifying information identifying ~~an~~the network asset belonging to each network section and network section node identifying information identifying ~~a connection node capable of connecting the asset at each section to the computer network~~the network asset on the network section to which the network asset belongs,

said asset management client comprises a storage medium for storing, based upon sender and destination network address of information circulating over the computer network, in association with network section information identifying ~~the~~a belonging network section of said network asset management client, network asset management information of ~~an~~the network asset including network asset identifying information identifying ~~an~~the network asset belonging to the network section of said asset management client and network section node identifying information identifying ~~a connection node of the computer network to which the asset is connected~~the network asset on the network section to which the network asset belongs, ~~from the information circulating over the computer network; and~~

said asset management client further comprises a controller connected to the storage medium, ~~gather~~to perform a process comprising:

gathering, from the information circulating over the computer network, the network asset management information of ~~the~~each network asset belonging to ~~the~~each network section of ~~saideach~~each asset management client, ~~which management information is included in information circulating over the computer network and includes the network asset management information including~~ information identifying ~~an~~the network asset, being managed, of the network section of said asset management client and network section node identifying information identifying ~~a connection node to which the asset is connected~~the network asset on the network section to which the network asset belongs, ~~from the information circulating over the computer network,~~ when it is determined that the information circulating over the computer network is information sent from the network asset, being managed, of the network section of said asset management

client or information addressed to the network asset, ~~based on information included in the information circulating over the computer network, to identify a sender and a destination of the information circulating over the computer network, and~~

said asset management server further comprises a controller to perform a process comprising:

~~connected to the storage medium and analyzing~~comparing the network asset management information of ~~aneach network~~ asset belonging to each network section, ~~which management information is gathered by the asset management client of each network section with ,comparing the master file network asset management information with the storage contents of the storage medium and, and~~

when the gathered network asset management information and the storage ~~contents~~master file network asset management information are not the same according to the comparing, updating the ~~storage contents of the storage medium~~master file network asset management information with by the gathered management information

~~wherein said controller determines, based on information included in the information circulating over the computer network, a sender and destination of the information circulating over the computer network and for determining whether said information circulating over the computer network is information sent from the asset being managed or information addressed to the asset.~~

19. (CANCELLED)

20. (WITHDRAWN) The asset management system according to claim 1, further comprising:

an asset management client connected at a position through which information circulating via the computer network passes; and

means for detecting that an asset not being managed is connected to the network and activating an alarm notification upon such detection.

21. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An asset management system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a communication log of each section storing data items including sender and destination



addresses of information circulating over the network; and

means for detecting whether the addresses are those of an asset being managed and when an asset not being managed is detected alerting an administrator.

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An asset management system according to claim 21, further comprising:

means for determining whether an asset has been transferred, automatically updating the contents of the asset registration and producing an alarm notification when the contents of the registration of the asset manager register master have been automatically updated.

23. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An asset management system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a software/hardware log connected at a position through which information circulating via the network passes; and

means for analyzing the log and automatically updating the content of the asset management register using the log.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) An asset management system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a section asset master storing asset licenses; and

means for checking the licenses when it is determined that the software asset is one being managed.

25. (CANCELLED)

26. (CANCELLED)

27. (CANCELLED)

28. (CANCELLED)

29. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An asset management system for managing an

network asset communicably connectable to a computer network, said asset management system comprising:

a storage unit ~~storing~~to store management information of ~~a~~the network asset communicably connectable to the computer network, including network asset identifying information identifying the network asset and computer network node identifying information ~~identifying a connection node of a~~to identify the network asset on the computer network to which the network asset is communicably connected;

a determining unit ~~for determining, based on information included in the information circulating over the computer network, a sender and destination of the~~network address of information circulating over the computer network and for determining whether said information circulating over the computer network is information sent from the network asset being managed or information addressed to the network asset being managed;

a gathering unit gathering network asset management information ~~included in information circulating over the computer network~~, including network asset identifying information identifying ~~a~~the network asset being managed and computer network node identifying information ~~identifying a connection node to which the asset is connected of the network asset, from~~based upon the information circulating over the computer network, when ~~it is determined by said determining means that the information circulating over the computer network is information sent from the network asset being managed or information addressed to the asset;~~ and network asset being managed; and

an updating unit ~~for comparing to compare~~ the gathered network asset management information with ~~storage contents of the storage unit~~the stored network asset management information and to update the stored network asset management information according to the comparison and when the management information and the storage contents are not the same, updating the storage contents of the storage unit by the gathered management information.